

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8381

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNGA, SHUM, PORG, CI

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF CHILE RESOLUTION BY THIRD COMMITTEE

SUMMARY. THIRD COMMITTEE ADOPTED RESOLUTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CHILE LATE DEC 7, 98 YES (US), 12 NO, AND 28 ABSTENTIONS. BIG SURPRISE: FRANCE VOTED FOR RESOLUTION INSTEAD OF ABSTAINING. MAKING EC-9 UNANIMOUS. END SUMMARY.

1. EXPLANATIONS OF VOTE BEFORE THE VOTE: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, WILL VOTE NO BECAUSE OF LACK OF REFERENCE TO WORK AND RESOLUTION OF OAS. COSTA RICA: OPPOSED TO SELECTIVITY, PICKING ONE COUNTRY FROM JUST ONE PART OF THE WORLD. GRENADA: WILL ABSTAIN BECAUSE GOVERNMENTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO PROTECT THEMSELVES AGAINST TERRORISM. COLOMBIA: WILL VOTE FOR, EVEN THOUGH AGAINST "UNNECESSARILY EXAGGERATED LANGUAGE OF RESOLUTION" AND "LACK OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PROGRESS OF RECENT MONTHS". ALSO, NOT HAPPY ABOUT ECTNEIND MANDATE OF WORKING GROUP. PERU, WILL ABSTAIN, NOTING THE STRONG EMPHASIS IN RESOLUTION L.49 (ON UGANDA, INTRODUCED BY NORDICS) ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (OAU), AND LACK OF ANY MENTION OF OAS, AND BECAUSE OF FAILURE TO RECOGNIZE THE ROLE OF GOC IN DIMINISHING THE VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. PARAGUAY: VOTE NO BECAUSE OF LACK OF MENTION OF OAS, AND LACK OF RECOGNITION OF ROLE OF GOC. MOROCCO: WILL ABSTAIN BECAUSE THE CORRECT APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM IS THROUGH THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

(COMPOSED OF STATES SIGNATURES OF INTIL CONVENTION ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS), AND BACAUSE DRAFT DOES NOT REFLECT RECENT IMPROVEMENTS. URUGUAY: VOTE NO BECAUSE OF FAILURE TO RECOGNIZE EFFORTS OF GOC, REPEATS PHRASES OF PAST YEARS, LACK OF RECOGNITION OF WORK OF INTER AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, AND BECAUSE NOT POSITIVE AND HELPFUL IN APPROACH BUT PUNITIVE AND NEGATIVE. GUATEMALA: LACK OF MENTION OF ROLE OF OAS IN RESOLUTION REASON FOR VOTING NO. CHILE THEN RESPONDED IN SPEECH POUCHED TO HEWITT (IO/HA) AND AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO.

2. THE BREAKDOWN OF THE VOTE ON DRAFT RESOLUTION L.37 WAS AS FOLLOWS: ABSTENTIONS: BOLIVIA, CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE, ECUADOR, EGYPT, EL SALVADOR, FIJI, GABON, GHANA, GRENADA, INDONESIA, IVORY COAST, JORDAN, LIBERIA, MALAWI, MALAYSIA, MOROCCO, NEPAL, NIGERIA, OMAN, PANAMA, PERU, PHILIPPINES, SAUDI ARABIA, SINGAPORE, SPAIN, SURINAM, THAILAND, AND ZAIRE. DELEGATIONS CASTING NEGATIVE: ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, CHAD, COSTA RICA, DOMICIAN REPUBLIC, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, LEBANON, NICARAQUA, PARAGUAY AND URUGUAY. ABSENT DELEGATIONS: ABLANIA, CHINA, DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA, GUYANA, MAURITIA, MAURITUS, SAMOA, SEYCHELLES, SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC AND TOGO.

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3. AFTER THE VOTE, TJRUEY SAID IF THERE HAD BEEN A VOTE BY SECTIONS, IT WOULD HAVE SBSTAINED IN PREAMUBLAR 8, AND OPRATIVE PARAS 5, 7, 8 C, AND 9. (TURKEY VOTED YES)) ARGENTINA SAID IT VOTED NO BECAUSE OF TIS ADHERENCE TO THE DOCCRINE OF NON-INTERFERENCE.

FRANCE SAID IT WANTED TO ADD TO THE ECAO STATEMENT OF NOV 24 (IN THE GENERAL DEBATE) THAT IT DISAPPROVED OF THE SLOWNESS OF THE DISMANTILING OF THE REPRESSIVE APPARATUS AND THE RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS, AND FOUND THE ABSENCE OF FORMAL CONDEMNATION IN MTHIS YEARS'S RESOLUTION (UNLIKE LAST YEARS S) TO BE SIGNIFI- CANT, BUT THAT IT SILL WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SEEN A LITTLE MORE RECOGNITION OF POSITVE STEPS. JAPAN VOTED YES, AND THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT THAT THE WORKING GROUP BE ABLE TO VISIT CHILE. JAPAN WOULD HAVE ABSTAINED ON 8B AND 8C. VENEZUELA RECALLED THE WORDS OF THE OAS RESOLUTION THAT VIGILANCE REMAINS NECESSARY.

4. BEFORE THE DEBATE MISOFF ASKED CHAIRMAN OF THIRD COMMITTEE IF THERE WAS ANY WAY THAT THE US AS A CO-SPONSOR COULD MAKE SMOME SORT OF STATEMENT EITHER

BEFORE OR AFTER THE VOTE. THE CHAIRMAN CONSULTED WITH THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMITTEE, AND THOUGH BOTH WERE SYMPATHETIC (ESPECIALLY SINCE THE US DID NOT SPEAK DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE) TO ALLOWING THE US TO SPEAK, GIVEN THE RULE THAT CO-SPONSORS MAY NOT SPEAK ON A RESOLUTION (INCLUDING EXPLANATIONS OF VOTE) ONCE THE VOTING IS UNDER WAY, GRANTING THE US PERMISSION TO SPEAK WOULD OPEN UP THE WHOLE DEBATE AGAIN. THERE,

THE CHAIRMAN MUST DECIDE NOT TO ALLOW IT UNLESS AN AMENDMENT WAS PRESENTED, WHICH WOULD OF ITSELF REOPEN DEBATE AGAINST ON DEBATE WAS OFFERED, SO THE US WAS NOT ABLE TO DELIVER THE STATEMENT PREPARED BY USUN AND PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT. MISSION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WILL RELEASE IT AS A PRESS RELEASE DEC 8 AND DISTRIBUTED TO THE COMMITTEE SIMULTANEOUSLY. THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT WE PLAN TO RELEASE IS REPRODUCED IN THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH.

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5. QUOTE

ON DECEMBER 7 THE THIRD COMMITTEE ADOPTED THE RESOLUTION

"ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CHILE" A/C.3/32/L.37. AS A CO-SPONSOR OF THE RESOLUTION, THE UNITED STATES DID NOT HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO STATE ITS POSITION ON THE RESOLUTION DURING THE DEBATE. AS A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD, THEREFORE, THE UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS WISHES TO MAKE AVAILABLE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT CONCERNING THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES ON THIS IMPORTANT RESOLUTION.

THE UNITED STATES WOULD LIKE TO STATE FOR THE RECORD THE REASONS THAT IT IS CO-SPONSORING L.37, THE RESOLUTION ON THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE. IT IS BECAUSE WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER THE WELFARE AND FREEDOM OF THE PEOPLE OF CHILE, IN THE LIGHT OF THE PERSISTENT REPORTS OF GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE NATION. WE HOPE, AND WE BELIEVE THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE OF CHILE ALSO HOPE, FOR THE EARLY RETURN OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IN THAT NATION. WE ARE PLEASED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS CONTINUED TO MANIFEST ITS INTEREST AND CONCERN ABOUT THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE, AS EVIDENCED BY THE STRONG BACKING FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THIS RESOLUTION, BUT WE HOPE THAT SUCH CONTINUED CONCERN WILL SOON CEASE TO BE NECESSARY, WITH THE CONTINUED REDUCTION IN THE VIOLATIONS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS OF PERSONS IN CHILE, AND THE REESTABLISHMENT OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS.

WE WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE OUR APPRECIATION FOR THE CONTINUED EFFORTS OF THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT TO RESPOND TO THE CONCERNS THAT HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, BY SUBMITTING DOCUMENTS TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AND BY CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN THE DEBATE BEFORE THIS BODY AND OTHER UN MEETINGS, EVEN THOUGH WE REGRET VERY KEENLY THE FACT THAT THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP HAS BEEN UNABLE TO FULFILL ITS MANDATE BY VISITING CHILE. WE URGENTLY REQUEST BOTH THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE AND THE SPECIAL WORKING GROUP TO CONTINUE IN CONSULTATION TO DISCOVER IF IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO ARRIVE AT SOME AGREEMENT THAT WOULD PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF THE MANDATE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, CONTAINED IN THIS RESOLUTION, AND AFFORD THE WORKING GROUP OR A PART OF IT TO VISIT CHILE ON TERMS THAT WOULD ALSO BE CONSISTENT WITH THE NATIONAL DIGNITY OF THE CHILEAN PEOPLE, IN THEIR QUEST FOR FULL PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS.

WE FURTHER WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE SOME OF THE SPECIFIC STEPS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE HAS TAKEN IN RECENT MONTHS. WE NOTE WITH SATISFACTION THE EVIDENCE THAT THE INCIDENTS OF DIRECT ABUSE OF INDIVIDUAL HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE HAVE BEEN REDUCED. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE HAS TAKEN CERTAIN POSITIVE STEPS IN RESPONSE TO THE EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN

OF ITS OWN PEOPLE AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

THE UNITED STATES WISHES TO STATE ITS STRONG HOPE AND
EXPECTATION THAT THE ONLY FULL AND COMPLETE PROTECTION OF HUMAN
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RIGHTS IS AFFORDED BY FREE AND DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS, PROTECTED
BY THE RULE OF LAW, AND THAT WE BELIEVE THAT THE CHILEAN
NATION, WITH ITS LONG AND NOBLE TRADITION OF SELF-GOVERNMENT,
WILL SOON FIND ITSELF ONCE AGAIN UNDER RESPONSIBLE RULE OF
THE MAJORITY, AND UNDER A SYSTEM OF LAW AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY
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